

FALL
2013

UNITED PARISH OF BOWIE

United in Christ - Our Mission: To Serve

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One heart One voice United Parish REJOICE!

I hope you have experienced a time of relaxation and renewal over the summer months, and are ready for an exciting and adventuresome year of discovering ways to deepen your relationship with God. During the past few weeks, your committees have spent time identifying an offering of rich experiences to challenge and motivate you to grow and mature in your faithfulness and discipleship to Jesus Christ.

Ever think about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? The word *disciple* is derived from a Greek word that means learner or student. As a disciple of Jesus Christ, you are meant to be a learner of his teachings. What kind of learner are you?

Learning is a lifelong process. Each August/September, depending on when school begins, students take pre-tests to assess their levels of functioning. September is also a good time for you to do a pre-test, a self-assessment, of where you are in your journey as a faithful disciple. So think about the following.

- ✠ How is your relationship with God?
- ✠ How is your prayer life?
- ✠ How much time do you devote to worship? Reading the Bible? Doing a personal time of devotion?
- ✠ How have you changed over the last year in your understanding of who God is and calls you to be? What are you doing differently and why?
- ✠ Where are you experiencing the power and presence of God?
- ✠ Where have you most recently encountered the risen-living Christ in your life?
- ✠ How and where have you shared your journey with others?
- ✠ What changes need to occur in the intentionality of your discipleship?

The healthiness of a church's discipleship is often viewed according to the

- ✠ Frequency and regularity of church attendance by its members and friends
- ✠ Way it welcomes new visitors and invites them to become a part of the church's ministries
- ✠ Level of participation in educational and Christian spiritual formation opportunities
- ✠ Extent of generous and joyful giving of time, talents and treasures
- ✠ Participation in charity (giving money/goods to support others)
- ✠ Involvement in hands-on ministry and mission

Throughout this edition of the newsletter and the weekly updates you will find a myriad of opportunities for growth and service in ministry. May you continue to grow in your faithfulness and discipleship and enjoy being the church: One heart. One Voice. United Parish, REJOICE!

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Grace and peace for the journey as you now discern where and how will you be a faithful disciple - a learner growing in better understanding who God is and calls you to be.

Rev. Jeri Fields
Interim Pastor



Art & Music Camp 2013

It was another amazing week at the United Parish when we held our 3rd Annual Art and Music Camp! The church was filled with sounds of laughter and singing as 46 children rotated through the four stations: art, music, drama, and games. Our theme was “Go and Serve Our World in God’s Backyard” and focused on serving friends, family, neighbors, community, and Jesus. Each day began with our

theme song, “Go Serve Our World” and a skit based on the day’s Bible story. Stories included Miriam taking care of her brother Moses (Exodus 2:1–10), men carrying their friend to Jesus (Mark 2:1–12), a Samaritan man helping a hurt neighbor (Luke 10:25–37), Zacchaeus giving to his community (Luke 19:1–10), and Peter and John showing Jesus’ love and power (Acts 3:1–19). At the end of the morning, everyone would come together again, share what they had done, and sing “My Life for You” and “Friend of God”. A special treat was learning how to sign parts of several songs. A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped to make the week a huge success: Chrissie Bickel, Dina Bickel, Matthew Bickel, Megan Bickel, Shirley Bickel, Stephen Bickel, Robin Burgess, Tom Chin, Diane Eades, Helene Fanba, Monik Fanba, Violet Igwacho, Sue Kennedy, Cathie Lambert, Kathy McIndoe, Kenya Merritt, Sarah O’Callaghan, Julissa Orta, Lorena Orta, Luis Orta, Genesis Santiago, Aaron Saudagar, Janice Sheppard, Lindsay Sheppard, Carol Zuber, and Pastor Jeri. To get a glimpse, check out this link – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ek8P3AX9voY>



A Look Back at Summer 2013



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE



Where has the summer gone? It seems like it was just a few weeks ago that we were looking at blank pages for the last newsletter and now school is starting up again.

For those of you who helped rock UPB's first entry into the annual BowieFest, we again have to say, "Thank You!" Not only did we have a fun booth with information about our congregation, but we had an expanded area where our kids shared their passion with area youth running games and giving away prizes— large and small. We got a chance to see many of them at our Art & Music camp and have seen some of them since. This is just another example of how the best advertising is not built on slick campaigns, or flashy TV or radio spots, but on genuine

word of mouth. Sure the promotional materials help, but without YOU, they wouldn't have much value.

Looking ahead, please start thinking how you could help spread the word about your UPB. Sales can be an intimidating thing, but the good news is that is NOT what we are asking of you. An axiom I heard years ago that still rings true was that while everyone buys, no one likes to be sold. Thinking about it, I am sure we all have examples of meeting salespeople who seemed friendly enough, then pushing us trying to "close the deal" that just made us uncomfortable. The best PR work I have seen here has been when genuine members shared a little of themselves and their church with people they don't know. It is exactly that simple and exactly that hard. To help, we have some promotional material from our summer campaigns, especially the new United Parish of Bowie trifold brochures. Do you have a community bulletin board at work or near your home? What about at your local library, youth center, coffee shop or pub? Once you start thinking about it, I am sure you can think of a lot of locations. Generally, I have found that while it can be kinda fun to try and sneak your flyer or brochure onto the board without anyone seeing you (while humming the tune to [Mission Impossible](#)), it is always better to ask who you can talk to about the board, briefly meet that person (generally a manager), show them what you would like to post and get their agreement. We don't want to create the misimpression of being bad neighbors while swiping somebody else's pushpins, so come prepared. The managers have these boards to create a sense of community and they want to help local businesses get their word out. I would be very surprised if you were the only church represented on that board, but probably the only one who for some reason had the Mission Impossible theme stuck in their head while doing it. (You're welcome!) The hardest one is the first one, so plan on doing a couple of them so we will be good at it when we have our next round of special events (Rally Sunday, Stephen Trafton's performance, CROP Walk, etc.). We will also be announcing details of the great UPB pen swap in the coming weeks, which should also be great fun – and can be done quite shyly (insert Mission Impossible theme here).

If you are looking for a way to help serve UPB, we hope you would consider sharing your talents and enthusiasm on the Communications and Coordination Committee – helping us spread the good news of all the other committees and the church, both internally and throughout the community. If you are interested or just curious, please see anyone on the committee.

As we say farewell to summer and race into fall, wishing You and Yours an extra scoop of Shalom!

–Your ComCom Committee (Alec, Robin, Mike, Elsie, Penny, Sudha and Dina)

MISSION AND SERVICE

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

As I finish my last month as Chair of the Mission and Service Committee, I want to take this opportunity to thank my committee members (Judy, Nancy, Doug, Pearl, Kathy, and Michel) for their dedication and commitment to UPB's Service and Mission Committee and to the many initiatives we plan and coordinate. I would also like to thank Betsy, our Board Liaison, for the support and guidance she provides to the Committee. We all want to thank you, the congregation, for shining your light by giving joyfully and generously throughout the year to support UPB's opportunities.

-Mary Jo

COMMITTEE NEWS: Doug Snyder has stepped up and agreed to take over as Chair for the Mission and Service Committee...Thank you Doug! He has already recruited Janice Sheppard as a new committee member...Way to go Doug! Thanks, Janice!

Operation Backpack 2013—UPB's generous spirit showed the children how much God loves them! With the generous support of the congregation, UPB filled 10 high school backpacks full of school supplies to support Central Union Mission's annual initiative to provide backpacks to the children in need in our Nation's Capital. The students UPB helped through this project will be filled with hope, joy, and excitement as they start the school year. Our support will provide these children the opportunity to start school with the tools to be successful.



Bowie Interfaith Pantry-Adopt-a-Shelf Program: UPB has joined the Bowie Pantry's Adopt-a-Shelf Program. We are responsible for keeping the shelf stocked with **RICE** throughout the year. Please drop your box or bag rice in the basket in the Narthex.

Bowie Interfaith Pantry's Most Needed Items

- Applesauce – jars or 6-pack snack size
- Canned fruit – peaches, pears, fruit cocktail
- Tuna fish
- Boxed instant potatoes
- Fresh fruit
- Rice

SAVE THE DATE: Bowie's CROP Walk-Sunday October 6!

What is the Crop Walk? *Communities Respond to Overcome Poverty (CROP)*... Last year Bowie's CROP Walk raised over \$14,500 and 25% of that stayed right here in Bowie to help our neighbors in need.

MISSION AND SERVICE

Upcoming Opportunities

Family Crisis Center Themed

Meals: Thank you for supporting this each month! Our meals are a blessing to the women and children at the Crisis Center. The upcoming themes are as follows:

September 12: Tailgate - chicken, burgers or sliders, wings, chili, salads, dessert.

October 20: Italian - spaghetti and meatballs, spaghetti with meatless sauce or vegetable sauce; baked ziti, salad, dessert.

November 17: Traditional Thanksgiving Meal - turkey casserole, sliced turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, pumpkin pie, pecan pie.

Living Waters for the World (LWW):

Please help the children's Christian Education program with its service project to support the effort of LWW to bring clean drinking water to all God's Children in poor and developing countries all around the world. Join the children in this worthwhile service project by depositing whatever amount (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, or currency) you want to donate in the large water bottle in the area outside the sanctuary.



Traveling this summer or fall?

Don't forget, the Bowie Pantry accepts travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion, etc. Please remember the Pantry and don't leave those items behind in the hotel room.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

Sunday School: Sunday School classes will begin at 10:00 am on September 15. This year there will be two classes: preschool-third grade led by Dina Bickel and Marva Connolly; and fourth-ninth grade led by Jan Barbato, Gene Barbato, Julissa Orta and Kathy McIndoe. Both groups will use the Grow, Proclaim, Serve curriculum. A big thank you to our volunteer teachers for giving their time and talent to this important ministry. We can always use more teachers. Please let Julissa know if you are interested. All you need is a love of God and a desire to share that love with children.

Fall SEEDS: Fall SEEDS begins Wednesday, September 18 from 6:00–7:15 pm and will continue every Wednesday through October 30. Everyone gathers for dinner and fellowship at 6:00. This year, following dinner, those in grades seven through high school will meet in the library with Penny and Julissa, while the others will have games, music, and Bible stories in the sanctuary with Diane and Sue. It's a great time for families to come together to enjoy, food, fun, and worship, so plan to attend. And if you would like to help by providing a meal, please speak to Diane or Sue.

Christmas Play: While school has just started and many of us are thinking about fall and football, it is not too early to be making plans for Christmas. On December 15, the children and youth will be presenting "Twelve Days of Christmas", a play that celebrates the twelve days beginning with the birth of Christ and ending in the visit of the three kings. Practices will be on Wednesdays in place of SEEDS from November 6 to December 11. More information will be coming as plans are finalized, but mark your calendars now so that all our children and youth will be able to participate. I hear that the choir will also have very special part!

Where Are You, God?

Can you hear me, God?
Like a turtle with mangled legs,
where can I go? My travel sense lost.
Which path to follow?
I want to curl under my shell.
This tree-splitting storm has slung me
to unknown place. Do you not care?
Where are you, God? Are you really there?
"My little turtle, displaced and hurt,
you're never outside my care.
I was there when you were formed.*
My forever love holds you close.
Feast on me. Seek my Word and find
the purpose I wrote just for you."

Shirley Klotz Bickel, ©2013

*See Psalm 139:14-16



UPB Book Club is inviting all who enjoy reading and want to share their favorite books in an informal setting with yummy refreshments, come to the Barbato home on Friday, September 6 at 7pm. We'll be selecting the next few books we want to read, so come with suggestions of your favorites. See Jan or Gene for directions.

CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Church in the Park: Thank you to Pastor Jeri and the worship team for planning such a meaningful worship service all while enjoying the beauty of the outdoors. Thank you to the fellowship committee for organizing the food.

Adult Education: Adult Education begins on September 15. Pastor Jeri will facilitate a 4-week class on the Book of Colossians. The class will meet in the library at 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Bible Study: The Christian Spiritual Formation Committee is offering a six-week Bible Study class in the Fall starting September 23rd. The study will be on Daniel who lived about 600 years before Christ. The class will be taught by Nikki Hillary and held on Mondays, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. and from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Additional information will be forthcoming. Please stay tuned.

NRSV Bibles: Jeri has obtained free NRSV Bibles for the church. You may find the Bibles between the seats in the sanctuary.



Ladies Night Out

Friday September 27, 2013

7 PM. All ladies are invited to our first Ladies Night Out of the year. We will meet at Barbara Trafton's home (See

Barbara for directions) for a party game night (Hollywood Game Night inspiration) and there will also be board games. Part of our evening will be used to plan activities for the rest of the year. And yes! refreshments! Ice Cream Sundaes with chocolate fudge sauce and lots of toppings.



Have computers to get rid of?

Barbara Trafton is helping a group of retired school folks gather computers and computer components that are completely refurbished and then given to

worthy families for school and work. The computer hard drives are completely cleared, machines repaired and new software installed along with programs needed for school and internet use. Your old computer can have a great new life! Spread the word that we recycle computers for free. Call Barbara at [301-249-6653](tel:301-249-6653) for pickup.



The Pastor Nominating Committee began meeting weekly since being elected on April 21, 2013. After meeting with representatives of both denominations, work began on the Ministry Information Form (MIF) for Presbytery and the UCC Church Profile for the United Church of Christ. The Parish Board approved the MIF on July 16 and posted on the Church Leadership Connection, the internet based matching and referral system for the Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) on August 2. The PNC is currently receiving Personal Information Forms (PIF) from potential candidates. There is a copy of the MIF in the narthex or you can view it by going to www.thepresbytery.org/calls-and-jobs and click installed pastoral positions.

Once the UCC Church Profile is approved, it will be sent to the Association Conference Minister and will be posted on the UCC Listings of churches looking for pastors. When candidates express an interest in the United Parish, their profiles will be sent to the PNC.

Please keep this dedicated group in your prayers on this long journey to discern the next pastor for our church.

THE UNITED PARISH OF BOWIE

United in Christ - Our Mission: To Serve

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Opt-Out: UPB's Use of Names and Images - While we never publish individual children's names without expressed parental consent, we do publish images of groups of children. In addition, at times we publish both names and images of individual adults, as well as groups. If you wish to not have any names or images for members of your family published, please contact Dina Bickel to opt-out of future publications.

A look ahead...

Sept. 6	Book Club 7 p.m. Barbato home
Sept. 8	Rally Sunday; Choir resumes
Sept. 15	Adult Education 9:30 a.m. Children/Youth Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sept. 18	Fall SEEDS begins 6 p.m.
Sept. 23	Six-week Bible Study begins on Daniel 3 p.m and 7 p.m.
Sept. 27	Ladies Night Out
Sept. 29	Town Hall Meeting: Receipt of special gift
Oct. 5	Stephen Trafton returns with a performance of Colossians
Oct. 6	CROP Hunger Walk World Communion Sunday Special Music by Stephen Trafton
Oct. 27	Consecration Sunday

ENCOUNTERING COLOSSIANS



Stephen Trafton, Broadway actor (Les Miserables and National Tour of Phantom of the Opera), returns to the United Parish of Bowie on Saturday October 5, 2013 at 7:00 PM to bring to life another letter of Paul. This time Paul is writing to the Colossians and teaching them to live as Christians, to love one another, and treat others in a Christian way. Paul's letter to the Colossians teaches them and us that Our Lord, Jesus Christ, meets our needs in every area and way and is totally sufficient. As Stephen did in "Encountering Philippians," his story telling monologue will bring the apostle's words to life and remind us of their present relevance for our contemporary life. Stephen's presentation is a dynamic way of experiencing Paul's letter and applying it to our own lives. Please spread the word of this outstanding opportunity to experience this life-changing encounter with the letter of Paul.

Encountering Colossians

Saturday October 5, 2013 at 7:00 PM

United Parish of Bowie 2515 Mitchellville Road Bowie, Maryland

The performance will be approximately one hour and there will be a free will offering taken. Light refreshments and time of fellowship will follow.